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To: John L. Malt

6-2-59
H-1400

The next subject might be called a collection of scientific problems relating to reconnaissance having to do with things like hypersonic visibility, radiation effects on film, methods of evaluating reconnaissance system performance, studies relating to the use of multi-sensor systems, and the like. This ought to be done--unfortunately cannot be done either leisurely or half-heartedly.

We occasionally pay lip service to the notion of limited war ground here, and within that subject to the general notion of reconnaissance for limited wars. As far as I can make out this subject is a large vacuum in the United States, despite the efforts of Project Michigan and other projects to contribute to it. We could make mileage in studies of limited war reconnaissance which has heretofore been known as tactical reconnaissance. Namely, how to do it, preferred instrumentalities, ways of organizing to get it done, methods of handling data, study of timeliness requirements, etc., etc.

In order to immerse 117-L and similar projects in their proper context, it should be necessary to invent, discover or find a theory of value for pre-hostilities intelligence altogether, against which various and expensive reconnaissance proposals could be placed and tested for sense and rationality. One of the obvious difficulties of course, with intelligence, is that its use is never immediate, or at least hardly ever immediate. As a consequence it is very difficult to show what intelligence picked up today means in terms of dollars that are likely to be spent or saved several years later. We have certain ideas on how to go about formulating this general theory of value for intelligence and it would be worthwhile to have a crack at it.

The project variously known as Sentry, Big Brother, Big Boondoggie, etc. will be with us for a long time. We here at RAND have a historical connection with its origins and a continuing tradition of being connected with the project at almost all levels. We cannot afford either organizationally or personally, for those of us so involved, to drop this connection because we feel (as indicated in the memo I sent you several weeks ago -- M-9008) we continue to influence it and have some effect on its colossus. Without elaborating at length, a pursuit of the several ideas found in M-9008 are indicated and should prove fruitful.

Some of us still remember Buckworth and the abortive project that never really got going. We had some useful ideas at the time. These could be expanded either via a reconnect with Buckworth or independently of him.

Disarmament/inspection studies are going to start at RAND shortly I firmly believe. The State Department contract, their interest in this subject, and further, our interest independent of their interest or dollars, warrants preparation for the next conference on surprise attack and for inputs to the State Department and the Defense Department on general subjects for which inspection is of interest. I feel this ought to be one of our more important projects, being the kind of project that cannot well be done in industry at all, because of the cross inputs required.

SECRET

To: John L. Rait

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6-9-59
H-3429

Next comes a grab-bag of ideas, projects and so on which we spit out occasionally like an orange seed. These are in the realm of off-beat ideas. You may have read some of the things we've written in this connection -- we intend to keep up the off-beat stuff.

That's about all I can think of this evening so I'll sign off here.

Aaron H. Katz
Electronics Department

ANK:dk

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